

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

11. (Currently Amended) A golf club head comprising:

a face plate having a contoured rear surface, the contoured rear surface including a central thickened region having a non-circular, elliptical outer edge surrounded by a transition region tapering from the central thickened region toward a thinner peripheral region, the transition region also having an elliptical outer edge, the elliptical outer edge of the central thickened region having an aspect ratio that is greater than the aspect ratio of the elliptical outer edge of the transition region, wherein;

the elliptical outer edge of the central thickened region has a first major axis and a first minor axis; and

the elliptical outer edge of the transition region has a second major axis and a second minor axis, the second major axis being equal to the first major axis plus a predetermined distance and the second minor axis being equal to the first minor axis plus said predetermined distance, and wherein each point along the elliptical outer edge of the transition region is displaced outward from said elliptical outer edge of the central thickened region by an amount equal to said predetermined distance.

12. (Original) The golf club head of claim 11, wherein:

The first major axis is from 0.65 to 1.05 inches and the first minor axis is 0.25 to 0.45 inches.

Amendment

13. (Original) The golf club head of claim 12, wherein:
the predetermined distance is from 0.40 to 1.20 inches.
14. (Currently Amended) The golf club head of claim ~~10~~ 11, further comprising:
a shell having an opening; and
the face plate being attached to the opening in the shell to form a hollow body.